

THE FASHIONS.

Idwintery Styles—The Empire Bonnet—Cloaks and Furs—Dress—Goods—Modes—Evening—Dresses—Head-Dresses.

The New Year came in, not royally, with flaming banners alight the morning sky, but in the mostlachrymose and dismal of moods; the eternal First of January looking damp contentment in the gay drawing-rooms and fleecy toilets displayed in its honor. The round of days since then has been hardly more cheerful. Grey skies and chilly rains, sharp sleet, and an occasional petulance of snow on the part of this eldest daughter of the year, have tempted to inglorious ease in the artificial summer of the drawing-room. The Amazons who walk every day, and defy the treacherous and immitigable horrors of our streets, come home, indeed, with chilly feet, and noses blushing celestial-rosy red, but elate with the nice intoxication which deep draughts of oxygen induce.

Dear, wise virgins, who thus keep your lamp of health trimmed and burning, this daily outdoor season is excellent, even though your peripatetic school of philosophy be not of the highest, and you lounge down Broadway only to be seen and to meet the bodies comin' frae the town. Nature's romances are a great deal better than Mrs. Henry Wood's, and gathering new forces from the vital air as a laborer occupies than making crocheted slippers and vases called Decalcomanie. But why will you put Folly's cap on Wisdom's head, and take that uninviting promenade in the line, in rings on your fingers and bells on your toes?

Does nobody read the Tribune, or is that prophet not without honor save in his own country? Line upon line, proceed upon precept here a little, there a little, have you insisted that the first law of good taste is fitness. Lacking that, silk of Shiraz seems but dull of hue, and diamonds lose their lustre. Of thirty women whom one shall meet on Broadway, to-day, not one will be well dressed. The most colored poplin, with its prouze trimmings, its silk with the blue of Heaven caught in its shining web, this gorgeous fabric wherein the invisible spirit of wine is imprisoned, these mock-antiques whose tender green is like the meadow-mosses, these countless robes of black, plainer only in color, and enhanced in cost by garniture of jet, and steel, and velvet—why, these are toilets for Compaigne, or Sandringham House.

Oh! Mesdames, you make the artistic heart ache! While we experience a January thaw, what do you with your best apparel on? You point triumphantly to the pretty lessons of your drapery and the gay petticoat. But a passing omnibus will splutter you, and a Celtic handmaid, dragging foul skirts, brushes by you, leaving a fatal stain upon your shining robes, and the melting snow above the caves drops down on the jewel on your forehead, and the home in an omnibus, your dainty skirts sweeping against the vile steps, and resting, perchance, on the unworthy knees of an itinerant vender of old clothes, whose ten cents entitle him to the same consideration as your own, and whose company with yourselves, or President Johnson, if the streets be not wet, they are dusty; for New York has no knowledge of that nautical experience described as "between wind and water." Then the impudent, coarse ground from the pavement, by ponderous wheels, fill the air, sit into your dresses, and cannot be expelled.

Excellent daughters of the Republic, the wealth of Ceresus would not acquit you of the dirt which you have upon your dresses, and pearls for your wine cup, but if you do it, you are vandals; and you may afford to destroy your wardrobe for a whim, but if you do it while barefooted babies sweep the snowy crossings, and implore you for the penny you find it too much to refuse to bestow, you will shiver in rank among that large and lovable class of our fellow-beings called Snobs.

For the street, and especially such streets and in such a climate as ours, plain, serviceable fabrics of wool are the only wear. They are so pretty, now, as to satisfy taste as well as good sense. Stout water-proof—the heavy French line, rich Empress cloth, and Lupin's merinoes, coming in folds whose grace is intimated by the best materials, and all for the excellent service they render, are economical in the end, though costly at first. The French ladies, tired of pins, which tear the dress, and strings which ring in folds whose grace is intimated by the best materials, and all for the excellent service they render, are economical in the end, though costly at first.

The objection of the expense involved in the additional dress, which is fit only for walking, is partly set aside by the consideration that the skirt is short and narrow, and that the petticoat, which is partly by the fact that its patient merit takes all the spurs of the unworthy streets, to the great gain of costlier apparel. The petticoat, not quite four yards round, is trimmed, or edged, with a narrow band, whose width is looped at least six inches above the hem of the petticoat. The cost of the suit, in wide material, would, therefore, be but trifling, and the saving of time, and trouble, and temper, involved in the daily changing of numerous toilets on a base not half wide enough to receive them, a relief for which the sex will be grateful.

While the French Court wore its customary suits of solemn black in memory of the baneful Majesty of Louis the Sixteenth, and the ladies wore black poplin, festooned over short petticoats of the same sombre fabric, whose folds no ermine expanded. Whether this tenacity was but a freak which the fantastic melancholy of the moment prompted, or whether it was the ordinance of the saint and far-off prophesies of the banishment of hoops, which have so long dowered in the fashionable air, no oracle can tell. The highest London authority pronounces only narrow and plain skirts "distinctioned," but, in the large breath, "from the body of contraction, plucks the very soul," by announcing that this change certainly began in London and not in Paris. Moreover, the wide gored dresses are more popular than ever, the costliest materials being made thus. And it is said that the lovely Empress grows stout, and will not relinquish the arbitrary hoop, which, if it does not improve ugly figures, at least torments beautiful ones to assert their superiority.

With the short dresses the question of booting becomes important. In the street, plain black kid boots, buttoned or laced above the ankle, are the proper attire for the feet. Nothing is more unbecoming, and, that the large crinoline is so often seen on those which makes the foot look broader, becomes trayed and draggled, and has rightful place only on a slipper, where it covers the sharp juncture of the shoe with the stocking. For full dresses, boots of the exact height of the robe, slipper of white or black kid, or satin, or of brocade, and white satin garters of a new design are worn. The latter have, with the trim compactness of a boot, the appearance of a slipper, which is a very becoming appearance. By a quilting of ribbon, and an ingenious arrangement of cloaked silk over a rose-colored lining, the shape of the slipper and the tint of the silken-based and dainty foot are secured. For \$20, and the continuance of a possible pinching, from which the flesh would shrink were not upborne by the triumphant spirit, any dancing belle may see

modistes and ladies' maids experience in making the petticoats of cambric and muslin fall in artistic folds beneath the filmy veil. Tricelines are pinned to the waist, and a tunic of some thick, pale silk often enriches the sunny robe. Many women, immoderately, or fond of display, always select silk attire for ball or party. It is noticeable this winter, however, that the highest fashion insists on a thin white corset, even with these royal shirts—a decree as sensible as artistic; for the dust of the ball-room settles on the shoulders, and the hair is too apt to soil the high, close waist, or perspiration to ruin the sleeves. The white bodies are tucked, pulled, or plain, and ornamented with ribbon and lace, in the form of a berthe, when high, and gathered in folds when low. The sleeves are very small, with needle-work or lace cuffs. When the corset is low, no sleeves are worn, loops of ribbon finishing the waist at the shoulder. Sashes of silk, or broad ribbon, in long bows at the side, or behind, fall from the Swiss ceinture.

HEAD-PIECES. The hair, generally worn in the coil of the Empire, behind, is so frizzed, curled, puffed, and waved in front, as to afford little room for improvement. The bandlets still remain in favor. Bright ribbons are passed through and through the hair, and fastened without flowing ends. Flowers and feathers are worn in the ball-room, but less universally than in former years. Chains, canoes, and gilded butterflies alight on sprays of lace, are seen; and the heavy braid in coronet form appears on heads where it is beautiful, and on heads which it deforms. The manner of arranging the hair must always be a matter of individual concern. There are no canons, because the character of the face and the shape of the head are the absolute authority, from which there is no appeal. We may conceal nature's outlines where they seem faulty, but we cannot violate them without incurring the reproach of ignorance and bad taste.

Finally, the fashions, which are distinctively new, are, with a few shining exceptions, distinctively bad. Dear ladies who read the Tribune, and are therefore wiser than your sex, a month ago we shall ring again at your door-bell and drink all with you the finest coffee. Till then, most noble friends, think upon this:—No novelty is worth the buying which is not in itself beautiful, nor is any beautiful thing to be discarded because its fashion is no longer new. Giving heed to this golden rule of costume, your wardrobe will become not only excellent, but economical; and it will not be in the court dress of fashion, you will at least go draped in the seaminess of wisdom.—N. Y. Tribune.

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PROPOSALS. TREASURY DEPARTMENT, OFFICE LIGHT-HOUSE BOARD, WASHINGTON CITY, January 5, 1886. Sealed Proposals will be received at this office until 1 o'clock P. M., on FRIDAY, the 14th day of February, 1886, for supplying the Light-House Board with six thousand gallons of the best quality pure Winter Strained Oil, either Lard or Sperm, for use in the Light-House Buoys, and for use in the Light-House Buoys, and for use in the Light-House Buoys.

RAILROAD LINES. PHILADELPHIA, WILMINGTON, AND BALTIMORE RAILROAD. TIME TABLE.—SUNDAY MORNING, JANUARY 8, 1886. Express Train at 4:05 A. M. (Monday excepted), for Baltimore and Washington, stopping at Wilmington, Pottsville, Havre-de-Grace, and intermediate stations. Express Train at 4:05 P. M. (Monday excepted), for Baltimore and Washington, stopping at Wilmington, Pottsville, Havre-de-Grace, and intermediate stations.

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